

THE
BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XXXIX. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1848.

No. 8.

THE LATE APPEARANCES OF THE HOSPITALS IN PARIS.

A Letter from CHARLES KIDD, M.D., of Limerick, to the Editor of the Dublin Quarterly Medical Journal.

IF the storm which has lately burst over the Continent has been followed by but few of those many social advantages our imaginative neighbors would lead us to expect, it is not entirely without interest—a melancholy interest, indeed—in the numbers of wounded at present in the hospitals of Paris; and it is likely to be not without very eminent advantages to surgery, and the treatment of gun-shot wounds in particular. Under this impression, and having visited these hospitals lately, I have thought a word or two on the subject not out of place at present. I confined my attention to the chief hospitals, the Hotel Dieu and La Charité; the other hospitals, prisons, &c., where the wounded had been huddled together, not being easily accessible to the public. I found by far the worst cases at St. Louis and La Charité; here Velpeau, Malgaigne and Jobert seemed completely inundated with frightful cases; bullets through the shoulder-joint, through the lungs, stomach and head; fractures of every imaginable variety; deep granulating wounds communicating with the cavities; mortifying extremities; ugly conical stumps after amputation performed the day of the fight; injuries of arteries; again, wounds where these vessels had escaped as if by miracle; injuries of the great cavities, &c.; in short, every variety of surgical accident that we can well imagine.

What strikes you at first entering the wards of the Hotel Dieu and St. Louis is the quietness of everything; the silence and propriety of the *élèves*; the anxiety of the medical man going round for the welfare of the patients, and the information of the pupils, by whom, I must say, I never witnessed greater kindness or attention shown to any class of patients. At the entrance to each ward the *Personnel* and *Reglemens* are posted up; the former containing the names of every one engaged in the ward, medical men, chaplain, matron, nurses, &c.; the rules also not less conspicuous. The pupils, however, are interdicted from stopping in the ward after the surgeon, from perussing the patients, or in any way interfering with them; matters of rather questionable utility so far as the pupils are concerned.

The hour of visiting the hospitals is 8 o'clock, A. M. The *blesés de*

Juin were lying every where that accommodation could be had. Many of the cases were of the most frightfully bad character: fore-arms torn in pieces by balls; hands shattered, and legs literally smashed by cannon-shot; by far the greatest number, however, were balls through the chest and shoulders, and all parts of the body exposed above the level of the barricade. It was quite wonderful to see what nature was doing for an immense number of these; the *vis medicatrix* seemed, indeed, all-potent. It was curious, too, to witness the nice parts the surgeons had to play: a word of comfort to one; a smile with another; a little bit of evasion with a third; many of them having, it is known, had more to do in the work of the barricades than they were willing to confess. There was an appearance of conscious misgiving about many of these poor creatures that one pitied. Several of them were wretched ghastly beings that an *emeute* always throws to the surface; many to whom death would be a respite from their thousand sufferings. There were also the young fellows of the *garde mobile*, especially at the Hotel Dieu; some of them wounded very slightly, others badly. One should see these fierce young fellows under every aspect to understand them; thundering along a *pas de charge*, or rolling in the grass at Versailles, without care or anxiety of any kind, except perhaps for fighting, and without a wish beyond that of standing sentry with a long gun, nearly twice the length of themselves, at the door of the camp. These nearly all recovered. One young fellow, a *garde mobile*, shot, it was said, one after another, thirty-five insurgents. General Cavaignac, seeing his undaunted courage, took a star off his own breast and put it on his. He was brought to the hospital next day, poisoned!

The general appliances of the hospital were excellent. Oiled silk, lint, charpie, sponges, ices, wines, jellies, and soups in abundance. Much more stress is laid on the article of diet than in our own hospitals. Everything seemed well managed indeed.

Among the more distinguished persons wounded in the late affray, many were taken to hospital. The Archbishop of Paris, who received a ball in the lumbar region, fracturing the vertebræ, was taken to the *Hospice des Quinze Vingts*. Damesme, one of Cavaignac's chief generals, on falling at a barricade near the College Henri IV., was taken to the hospital at Val de Grace, where he had his thigh amputated. At St. Louis, one of the members of the Assembly, M. Dornès, was lying next to a *garde mobile*; next both were several of the insurgents, many officers of the line, &c. It is not to be wondered at, however—these institutions are so admirably arranged, so well supported, and so cared for by the Government. A project has lately met with very general respect in the Chamber, of giving domiciliary medical attendance to all the poor of Paris, at the expense of the State.

The following is the official return of "killed and wounded" during these fearful days:—

Wounded, received from 23d to 28th June—Civilians, 806; soldiers, *gardes mobiles*, and *gardes republicques*, 813—total, 1619.

Amount of Dead brought to Hospitals—Civilians, 129 ; soldiers, *gardes mobiles*, and *gardes republikes*, 33—total, 162.

Total killed and wounded—Civilians, 935 ; soldiers, *gardes mobiles*, and *gardes republikes*, 846—total, 1781.

One hundred and sixty-two dead corpses were brought to the doors of the hospitals to be recognized by their friends!—the Morgue, the usual place for such exhibitions, having been obliged to be closed up. Many of these dead bodies were mangled and shattered by cannon-shot, or torn by the cavalry horses. Of the wounded, 53 civilians and 104 *gardes mobiles* left again on having their wounds dressed, while 195 died within the first five days ; leaving at the time of my attendance over 1400 cases, with some 300 or 400 in the temporary hospitals.

A feeling of sorrow seems to fill every one now in Paris for what has happened. Presents of lint and charpie are deposited at Notre Dame and other buildings, for the use of the sick. Even many of the ladies of the city offered their services, staying up at night with the wounded. A good deal has been said about poisoned balls, but I believe without any foundation. Many of those extracted were made of copper and zinc, and other unusual metals, but the wounds inflicted by them did not seem possessed of anything peculiar. The number of wounded in the hospitals at present far exceeds that of any other revolution. A somewhat singular suggestion has been mooted, that of M. Gannel, to embalm all those that fell during the four eventful days. It seems he has made an immense fortune by his process. He is to be seen every day at the Hotel Dieu, and has been worrying the Government about it. General Cavaignac has turned a deaf ear to the matter. In his great zeal, however, he offers to embalm republicans of every sort who may honor him with their confidence.

At La Charité, under Velpeau and MM. Gerdy and Morel-Lavellac, were 115 wounded, which I took the trouble of classifying as follows:—Injuries of head, 8 ; thorax, 8 ; upper extremities, 34 ; abdomen, 13 ; lower extremities, 33 ; various minor injuries, 19.

Several amputations were performed. Other cases, though of a very grave character, were apparently doing very well under the ordinary treatment. In one case the ball went right through the popliteal space without injuring either nerves or vessels ; in another, a man shot in the back of the head, the ball went out of the mouth : both were apparently doing well. In many instances the ball had gone through the shoulder-joint without any very manifest symptoms supervening. In another case a man was shot through the kidneys—the ball making two openings, actually broken in two on the bodies of the vertebræ. In another case (doing well) the entire foot was shattered by a cannon-shot. In another a very severe injury occurred in the track of the femoral vessels, without, however, any hæmorrhage : the man seemed as if nothing had happened. The injuries of the lower extremities were, indeed, almost beyond belief. In one singular case of injury of the head, the entire of the coverings of the lower jaw had been swept away, leaving the cartilages of the larynx exposed ; there seemed no unusual hæmorrhage. In a

severe injury of the upper extremity, the ball traversed the upper part of the shoulder, wounding the spinal column, and producing a want of sensibility and motion; the poor man was alive simply because it had not gone one half-inch higher, and cut off the origin of the phrenic. Another poor creature had received a bayonet thrust through his eye; another had a ball through both legs. In fact, every variety of horrid injury was to be seen. Amongst the newest ideas on gun-shot wounds is perhaps that of Velpeau, at La Charité, who has originated a classification and treatment of such lesions on the principle that they are analogous to burns. Every one knows the six degrees of burns of Dupuytren, and the treatment each will require. Velpeau states that the same thing holds in gun-shot wounds. The reparative process is the same; the symptoms the same; the treatment not very different. The ancients, I need scarcely say, held this doctrine until demolished by Ambrose Paré. Velpeau tells his class that the ancients were right; they saw the thing as a fact; but others came and built up a set of theories on it, that ultimately hid it from our view. The work of reparation, in many instances, is certainly the same; perhaps the shock to the system also.

At St. Louis Hospital, under Jobert and Malgaigne, I found the worst cases I had seen. Many of them are there yet, and some are very interesting subjects of study. This Hospital is beautifully kept; several officers of the national guards and line were under treatment; and every facility is given to the pupils. Malgaigne in particular, an excellent surgeon, is wonderfully communicative. As at La Charité I classified the cases as follows:—Injuries of head, 25; thorax, 18; upper extremities, 100; abdomen and pelvis, 20; lower extremities, 142; minor injuries, 15.

Some of the wards are under the care of M. Gosselin, and contain exceedingly bad cases; one, an entire destruction of the thigh by a cannon-shot, with fracture of the femur; another, a frightful crushing of the hand; several injuries of the most desperate kind of the lower extremities; one, a ball in the track of the ascending colon and gall-bladder, without any very bad symptoms.

Under the care of Malgaigne I saw here two cases in particular of extensive injury of the shoulder-joint; mortification in one, removal of the extremity at the joint in the other. There were crowds of instances of balls through and through limbs without any bad effects. In amputating I think the French surgeons do not clean the bone as we do in this country. The thing is done in an instant, but I am quite satisfied not quite so well as it might be. Whether on account of the hurry of the operation, or the change worked by chloroform, I do not know, but I had seen the most formidable operations also performed without removing the patient to the operating theatre. If the operation can be well done under such circumstances, perhaps it is an improvement, as so much of the strength of the patient as would be lost by the removal is husbanded. The process of "chloroformizing" is not managed so well as I have seen it at home; the patient is merely let smell to the vapor for some time. Speaking of this powerful agent, perhaps I may say it is at present, in some institutions in Paris, somewhat under a cloud,

from the many deaths that have occurred from its use there and elsewhere. The chloroform bottle is, however, carried about the hospitals as regularly as the other *armamenta medicaminum*. In one ward of St. Louis, for instance, we came to a desperate case of injury of the leg; Malgaigne called for the chloroform bottle while visiting the beds next it; the poor man was prepared for his fate, put under the effects of the anæsthetic, and on the return of Malgaigne settled for amputation. An assistant compressed the artery. The knife was run through over the bone; a large flap down to the patella was formed in a second; a sea of thick, grumous, pus-like matter followed; the bone was at once sawed through without any effort to save more flesh, the flap being somewhat limited; a large vermiform clot was taken out of the vein; the chief artery tied, and the rest left to the assistants. Not a word was spoken all the time; Malgaigne seemed as collected and cool as if it were any ordinary case, and passed on to the other end of the ward. Scenes like this are of hourly occurrence, and during the first few days of the insurrection were even still more frequent. I am quite aware that there is nothing very remarkable about removing a limb now-a-days. I think, however, that any one anxious to see what the system will bear in that way, or the other fearful injuries it will still battle against without any obvious effect, will find a rich field for study among the hospitals and ambulances of Paris for the next two months. With few exceptions, everything is left to the *vis medicatrix nature*—the expectant system of the French, which, if not exactly the best, is, perhaps, superior to the opposite one so common elsewhere. Indeed, any one anxious for a proper conclusion as to what may be left to nature and what not, cannot fail to find it in the Paris hospitals.

At the Hotel Dieu, in the 10 days preceding the 2d of July, 450 wounded were received. In the wards of Roux, of 127 wounded, 25 died almost immediately; 100 of these were cases of penetrating wounds of the abdomen, in one of which the liver must have been pierced; two cases in which the lungs were wounded; several other injuries of the chest and upper extremities; one very fearful case, in which the man was shot through the loins, the ball traversing the bodies of the lumbar vertebræ, producing retention of urine, paralysis of motion, and *not* of sensation, in the lower extremities: death after four days. Thirty-one quitted the hospital cured, leaving at the time of my visit the following under the care of Roux:—Injuries of the head, 11; thorax, 1; upper extremities, 23; abdomen, 2; lower extremities, 28—total, 73.

Under the care of MM. Manec and Voillemier:—Injuries of the head, 7; thorax, 5; upper extremities, 26; abdomen, 7; lower extremities, 29; minor injuries, 3—total, 77. 150 in all.

In the extraction of balls the French surgeons use a great deal of discrimination, and believe that making counter-openings, and unnecessarily enlarging the original wound, ought not to be practised; that, like the abuse of the trephine, the means of cure may lead to worse effects than the first injury, and that we should *wait for symptoms*. Two very ingenious instruments have been invented for getting at balls; like all

such nice things, however, they are seldom used. One, termed the "*Alphonsin*," differing little from the lithotripsy instrument, we are all familiar with this side of the Channel; the other, a little more complex, and containing a sort of cork-screw addition for fixing the ball and drawing it away. From the circuitous direction of balls in general, it is quite obvious of what little use such instruments can be.

At the *Maison de Santé* 90 were admitted; of these, 8 were severe penetrating wounds of the chest—many of them doing well after repeated bleedings. It was somewhat curious to witness the apparent want of symptoms in several patients here, though the most vital parts were evidently implicated. In one man the ball had gone through the spine of the scapula, fracturing that bone, and giving obscure evidences of its presence in the chest; after two bleedings he appeared recovering. In another case, though the ball had gone through and through the chest, injuring all the parts at the base of the lung, no bad symptoms had presented themselves. The worst appearances, however, may be a work of time; the immunity from pain or constitutional disturbance, so soon after the receipt of the injury, being a little fallacious. Much of it, however, I would be inclined to ascribe to the assiduous attention shown the patients, and the quickness with which any inflammatory aggression is subdued by bleeding. A *garde mobile* suffered under a wound of the head for some days; the brain was quite perceptible; reduced to a reddish pulp, it seemed insensible; pulsating as usual. He did not complain of anything unusual either, but died four days after. At this little hospital, out of 90 admitted during the insurrection, amputations were performed eight times.

At one of the temporary hospitals I found 75 wounded, of the ordinary character of cases: there were only a few about which there was anything peculiar. One man received a ball at the external angle of the eye, which entered deeply into the face: there seemed no bad symptoms. I should say, however, the commissure of the optic nerve had been injured. *He was blind of both eyes.* Several instances of injuries of the chest presented themselves, where the ball had gone round nearly the entire thorax without entering: these patients were recovering. One, indeed, in which the ball had to all appearances entered the chest, had got severe inflammation of the lungs and pleura; much fear was entertained for his life. In one of the beds a poor fellow, surgeon of one of the regiments of the line, elicited much sympathy. In no way daunted by the crash of the barricades, he remained with his regiment till struck by a ball, which shattered the lower end of the femur, going through the knee-joint. The poor fellow seemed quite collected, and great hopes were entertained for his recovery.

At Val de Grace, a military hospital, under the care of M. Baudens, something over 100 patients, many of them very severely wounded, were received. The treatment seemed to differ little from that in the other hospitals; refrigerants, to keep down inflammatory action (ice, cold water, &c.), purgatives and bleeding, were necessary; and attention, the most assiduous, to changes as they occurred. Fomentations of various

kinds, when suppuration set in, and other matters as the cases might require. M. Baudens does not seem a great advocate for amputation. He had operated, however, fifteen times after the days of June. 16 patients had sunk from the effects of their wounds. The remainder were progressing favorably. Of the number in this Hospital I made the following classification:—Injuries of head, 12; thorax, 6; upper extremities, 35; abdomen, 8; lower extremities, 47; minor injuries, 15—total, 123. A somewhat singular case occurred here, that of a young soldier, in which the ball impinged on the eye, producing a contusion of the eyelids and cornea merely, to all outward appearance with little constitutional symptoms, but in whom the shock to the eye caused complete blindness! Here, as everywhere else, one sees the different character of the cases among the well-fed military and the but too often wretched *ouvriers*. Several of the latter were attacked with gangrene. The treatment in all the hospitals is, perhaps, a little too general; what is ordered for a stout *mobile* being likewise ordered for a starving insurgent. All these injuries not requiring amputation are treated by cold applications, and venesection if necessary, followed, after re-action, by emollient cataplasms. There is very little cutting or enlarging of wounds, and a great deal is left to nature. The relative mortality will, perhaps, prove whether this or the opposite system is to be preferred. In two of the worst cases of wounds of the chest here, the operation of empyema had to be performed.—*Dublin Med. Journal.*

EXTRACTION OF URINARY CALCULI BY A NOVEL METHOD.

DR. PARRISH exhibited to the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, a specimen of round white calculi, varying in size from a pin's head to a small pea, which had been extracted from the bladder through the eye of a simple flexible catheter of medium size. The whole number withdrawn in this way was about forty, two or three coming away at a time, and generally without pain. As the case furnished some points of unusual interest, Dr. P. stated the history of it as derived from the patient himself; whose views as to the manner in which these calculi were formed, as well as to the proper method of extracting them, are novel and interesting.

The patient, William Hembel, Esq., President of the Academy of Natural Sciences, is well known to many of the Fellows as a gentleman of varied scientific acquirements, who, although not one of our profession, has devoted much time to medical investigations. He is now past 80 years of age, and has been for some years more or less subject to attacks of painful and difficult urination, from an enlarged prostate gland; this distressing malady has, within the past eighteen months, been considerably aggravated, so that he has been obliged to rely altogether upon the use of the catheter in evacuating the bladder.

In the early part of the present year he suffered to an intense degree, and did not derive the accustomed relief from the use of instruments,

The urine was highly ammoniacal, and deposited a large quantity ofropy mucus. In this condition it occurred to him, that a considerable portion of acrid urine, mixed with mucus, must settle down in the basfond of the bladder, beyond the reach of the catheter, as ordinarily introduced; and hence that only a portion of its contents was evacuated, the rest remaining behind as a source of renewed irritation. A reference to the anatomical arrangement of the parts confirmed this view, and induced him to resort to a simple expedient to remedy this difficulty. The catheter was introduced by the patient himself in the erect position, and all the fluid contents of the bladder evacuated through it; but, before withdrawing it, the body was bent forward, and the free extremity of the catheter slightly elevated, so as to throw the point of the instrument into the portion of the bladder below the symphysis pubis, at the same time that the palm of the hand was placed between the thighs, in order to allow the fingers to press upon the perineum; gentle motion was now made upon this part, with a view of elevating the depending portion of the bladder, and of thus throwing the mucus which might have settled there, into the eye of the catheter.

By thus striking the perineum, ropy mucus, having an ammoniacal odor, was discharged in considerable quantity, to the great relief of the patient, and fully confirming the correctness of the course adopted. This expedient was successfully resorted to at the close of each operation with the catheter, a portion of mucus always appearing after the urine had been evacuated. It was on one of these occasions that the patient discovered, on withdrawing the catheter, that it was blocked up with several small round calculi, which had been thrown into the eye of the instrument, and were thus readily withdrawn without pain. In this way, the whole number of calculi have been at different times extracted; and on only one occasion did any suffering follow; this was occasioned by the calculus being too large to pass within the eye of the instrument, thus presenting a rough surface to the passage, and causing slight laceration of the perineum with some hemorrhage.

By continuing this plan of emptying the bladder, the irritation of the organ was greatly lessened, the urine improved, and the mucous discharge gradually diminished, leaving the patient in a more comfortable condition than he had experienced for many months. He now believes himself entirely clear from the calculi, and enjoys comparative exemption from suffering, with improved health.

It is evident that the process above described could not be accomplished with a silver catheter, or with the body in an erect position.

The practical deductions which our venerable friend draws from experience in his own case, may be thus summarily stated:

He believes that much of the suffering attendant upon the disease (enlarged prostate) may be caused by the presence of irritating matters, which, from gravity, settle in the concavity of the viscus below the symphysis pubis, and out of the reach of the catheter when introduced in the ordinary way; this mucous secretion, if allowed to remain, forms a vehicle for the collection of solid particles deposited from

the urine, and for the formation of calculous concretions. Calculi thus formed, may exist for a long time unsuspected, thus aggravating the spasms of the neck of the bladder, and increasing the incontinence of urine to a great degree. Hence, it is important in all cases of enlarged prostate, attended with painful urination, thoroughly to evacuate the bladder, either by frequently washing it out, or by the process found so successful in the case now related. To accomplish this, the gum elastic catheter must always be employed, while the position of the body, together with the pressure upon the perineum, in the manner indicated, will be found indispensable to success. The accidental discovery of calculi in the catheter in the present case, seemed to point out the practicability of this method of extracting them, in the early period of their formation, and thus of preventing a painful and dangerous operation, which might be rendered necessary, if this simple expedient were not adopted.

Should subsequent observation confirm the above views, it must be admitted, that an important addition will have been made to our means of treating one of the most painful diseases to which man is liable, a malady which often renders the latter period of life a season of sorrow and anguish, and causes its victim to look forward to death, as a welcome messenger.—*Trans. of the Philad. College of Physicians.*

TREATMENT OF ERYSIPELAS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—I send you, for insertion in your Journal, that portion of an address delivered before the Worcester County Medical Society, which gives an account of my treatment of a few cases of erysipelas.

In August, 1846, I was called to E. C., a female aged 17, of sanguine temperament, florid complexion, auburn hair, had always been in perfect health. She was attacked with chills and fever, caused, as she supposed, by taking cold. She complained of severe cephalalgia. The mind sluggish, and a tendency to forget a question before she would be ready to answer. The tongue was dry and brown, with extreme heat of skin. I attributed much of the disturbance of the system to the fact that it was the first day of her menstrual period, and the discharge was stopped by her taking cold. I ordered an emetico-cathartic, composed of cal., pulv. sang. and ipecac., and followed it with diaphoretics and alteratives. There was a mitigation of all the fever symptoms, with the exception of the pain in the head, which continued with but little abatement. On the fourth day the erythematic inflammation made its appearance between the eyes, and extended over the nose and upon the forehead. It was first discovered soon after my visit in the morning, and I did not see it until evening.

I then applied nit. arg. around the inflamed surface, and slightly upon it; kept the face cool with spirits Mindereri. In the morning the inflammation had passed over the parts to which the caustic had been

applied. I now painted it over with the alcoholic solution of iodine, but this did not check the progress of the disease; it advanced at a uniform rate. In the afternoon I called in my friend Dr. John Green, of Worcester. He considered the case a grave one, and advised a continuance of the iodine, and a free use of the saline cath., sufficient to produce several dejections during the twenty-four hours. This advice was followed strictly. Through the next day, the inflammation advanced as rapidly as before, the treatment apparently not equal in power to the disease.

From the circumstance that I had seen this form of erysipelas mostly among intemperate persons, in hospital practice, at Bellevue, N. Y., whose constitutions were impaired by their habits of indulgence and exposure, rendering them not only trying cases to the physician, but frequently unfortunate, I was anticipating anything but a favorable issue. I mention this as a reason why I had not much confidence in any plan of treatment, and was prepared to adopt any course which might seem to possess power sufficient to control the disease.

In reviewing the medication recommended, most of which I had used and seen used, I found that a majority of it had a tendency to diminish the temperature of the parts to which it was applied; and that I had experienced the best results from that form which effected this object the most perfectly. Reasoning from these facts, I came to the conclusion that I would carry the refrigerating process to that extent, that it would control the inflammation, or give rise to some unpleasant symptoms that contra-indicated its continuance. In order that a thorough trial might be made of checking the inflammation by reducing the heat of the parts below their natural standard, I added salt to the ice, which is the mixture by which cream is frozen in the manufacture of ice creams. This was put in a vessel and covered with a blanket. I then had a change of folded cloths, so that while one set was upon the patient, the other was upon the ice. The first application allayed the pain, and this relief continued until the parts began to grow warm again, which at first was not more than three or four minutes. It being necessary to apply the cloths in strips, it was a continual process of change. When the inflamed part was kept so cold as to feel almost like ice to the hand of the nurse, the patient would sleep quietly, and was free from pain; but if the attendant neglected to change the cloths in a given time, the pain would wake the patient.

From the commencement of this treatment, the inflammation not only ceased to progress, but began to subside, the general symptoms improving in the same ratio. After a few hours the cloths required changing less often; and as the disease yielded, she complained that the application made her chilly. The sensations of the patient (so far as evidence can be derived from four cases*), are a safe guide upon this point. This case went rapidly on to perfect restoration, without any untoward circumstance to mar the happy result, or tend to create distrust of the truth of my deductions.

* One since, making five.

February 28th, 1847, was called to a young man, aged 28, very fleshy, of temperate habits, and good general health. Four days before, he was taken unwell, complained of headache, chills and general symptoms of fever. The pain in his head increased, until he was unable to work. This was on Saturday, the third day. His wife gave him a sweat, as she said; he perspired freely, and the head was relieved, but in the morning she discovered redness and swelling at the inner canthus of both eyes, and across the nose. It was upon the evening of this, the fourth day, that I was called to see him, for the first time, and found the inflammation had extended over both eyelids. I administered the same general remedies, and painted the inflamed surface over with iodine, made cooling applications, circumscribed the diseased portion with nit. argenti, keeping it upon the healthy skin. This caused vesication, but did not prevent the progress of the disease.

I now had recourse to the freezing mixture, as described in the other case. The general symptoms being so bad, I desired counsel, and Dr. Green was sent for. On his arrival, he advised a continuance of the treatment, as it had been so successful in the other case. The inflamed surface was excessively hard; it had, as Dr. Green remarked, a woody feel. This extreme refrigeration checked the spread of the inflammation, and the recovery was rapid. On the fourteenth day from the attack, after eating a hearty dinner and taking considerable exercise, the cheek began to inflame, but it was controlled immediately by the application of ice.

May 20th, 1848, Saturday, was called to see a young miss, aged 11, in consultation. She had been under the care of Dr. Corlew from the Wednesday preceding, at which time the erythematic inflammation made its appearance, and first upon the nose between the eyes. The usual treatment had been pursued from Wednesday, until the time of my seeing her on Saturday about 1 o'clock, P. M. At this time the whole face, ears, and about two and a half inches of the scalp, were inflamed and much swollen, so that it was with great difficulty the eyelids could be separated sufficiently to exhibit the eyeball; yet it had not that indurated feel of the last case. The lower extremities were cold, the upper portion of the body very hot. The pulse varied from 130 to 140, and was quite feeble. The pain in her head was most intense, accompanied with raving delirium; she did not recognize her parents, or any one about her, but was constantly exclaiming that "they had split her head open," "they had cut her head off," "they had killed her," &c., indicating the suffering she was undergoing.

Just after I had prescribed for the patient, Dr. Green arrived; and after making an examination, he stated to the attending physician, "that he had seen three or four cases that I had treated successfully in this way, and he must say more so than he had anticipated, and he should advise its continuance. The face having blistered in several places, the salt could not be borne, and cloths cooled only by the ice were used. Before leaving, gave four or five grains Dover's powder. At 5 o'clock, saw her again. She was quiet, had slept some, was calm and rational;

said she had some pain in her head, but before I was through with examining the extent of the inflammation the pain became so intense that she cried out from the suffering. This was relieved as soon as the cold cloths were applied again. The bowels were moved several times a-day by the Rochelle salts; she took an infusion of *Asclepias tuberosa*, with fifteen or twenty drops of spts. nit. dulc. every three hours. After a few days the rad. serp. virg. was added to the infusion.

On the eighth day from my first visit, all symptoms of fever left her, and her recovery was rapid. A small abscess of a strumous character formed on the inferior maxillary bone, and another upon the forehead; the latter did not require opening.

In all these cases the rooms were kept cool, and there was a free circulation of air.

There are some conditions which appear so essential in order to accomplish the object sought by this plan of treatment, that I will mention them.

1st. The temperature of the inflamed parts, and for some distance around, should be kept much below the natural standard.

2d. Care should be taken that no small portion is overlooked, so that the inflammation may be extending itself unperceived at that point.

3d. The diseased parts should be kept *constantly* cold.

If this last precaution is not taken, and the parts become hot, the inflammation will extend rapidly, and it will require some hours to recover what has been lost.

This treatment can be considered no other than topical, and sustains no different relation to the general or constitutional medication, than any other local remedies; and I can perceive no objection to its being adopted, let the internal remedies be what they may. I should recommend the application of the alcoholic solution of iodine to the surface, as it serves to prevent vesication, and probably is of advantage beyond this, in changing the condition of the parts beneath the scarf skin, or cuticle, by reason of its acrid and alterative power.

In the last case where the disease had extended behind the ears, under the chin, and upon the neck, I found it difficult to apply cloths so as to reach all the parts and keep them constantly cold. These difficulties suggested the idea of suspending the head in a net, or what might be obtained in almost any family, and would answer as good a purpose, the article termed tidies. This mode of suspending the head would allow the pillows to be moved, and admit a piece of oil-cloth to conduct off the water; I then would place over the head of the patient a vessel containing ice and salt, the water from which would be let upon the head through a faucet, in such quantity as was desirable. The parts desired to be kept wet should be first covered with cloths.

In this way I think all of the conditions I mentioned could be complied with, and a favorable result secured, without the fatigue, anxiety, and, more than all, the liability of failure by reason of the unfaithfulness, or want of judgment, of attendants.

The temperature of the parts could be regulated by the quantity of water permitted to flow, or by the ice and salt, or by both together.

Millbury, Sept. 1st, 1848.

H. G. DAVIS.

THE LATE FEVER IN NEW YORK.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—Since I wrote you, a few days since, the yellow fever panic has materially subsided, although a few new cases have occurred on Staten Island, most of which have been of a comparatively mild type. I have visited and examined closely many of these cases, and witnessed the post-mortem appearances in some, and have no hesitation in pronouncing the most malignant of them true *yellow fever*. On Wednesday last, Dr. Ashbel Smith, of Texas, read a very interesting paper on the disease, before our "Academy of Medicine," in which, after diligent personal investigation of the malady on Staten Island, he pronounced it identical with the yellow fever of Galveston, of which he has published a very graphic memoir. Dr. S. is undecided as to its origin, but is inclined to the belief that it is occasioned by local causes, and not by an imported virus. He is a decided non-contagionist; while Prof. Dickson, who has also had very extensive opportunities of observing the disease in Charleston, S. C., is equally confident as to its imported origin. "Who shall decide," &c.

Now look at some of the facts. A fever, of comparatively a mild type, spreads gradually through a population scattered over the eastern border of the island for a mile or more along the shore, and half a mile inland, opposite to the anchorage ground of vessels detained at quarantine, and these cases have appeared, from time to time, since the first of June, without the suspicion of their being yellow fever cases, until several of a more aggravated type occurred, attended with black vomit, when the disease is recognized and declared to be the yellow fever. These cases occurred, in most instances, among those who had never had any connection with the shipping; and in some, who had been confined for a long period to their own dwellings, as the "Retreat" where a lady died with black vomit; and in no case, it is believed, can the disease be traced to contagion, understanding by this, the communication of the disease from one person to another. In one instance, it is true, a washer-woman, at the Quarantine Station, was seized with the disease after washing the clothes of a yellow-fever patient, who died on board one of the vessels which brought in some of the returned volunteers from Vera Cruz, and she died, after a short illness, with black vomit. But the disease did not spread to the attendants or nurses of the hospital. Nor can the disease be traced to the shipping, except by supposing, which is highly improbable, that the virus was carried by the wind, flowing landward, the vessels being anchored a quarter of a mile from the shore; and this is the way in which Dr. Whiting and the Committee of our Board of Health suppose it to have originated. On visiting the Island, however,

the senses cannot but recognize other very powerful causes of febrile disease, such as exhalations from stagnant waters, accumulated filth in the streets and yards of the houses; and especially in the putrefying and horribly stinking masses of sea-weed and refuse garbage on the shore of the island, which alone would seem sufficient to produce a plague of the most virulent kind. And yet the inhabitants, blind to all these prolific sources of pestilence, are petitioning to have the Quarantine Station removed lower down in the harbor, without being aware, as it would seem, that there can be any other source of disease than imported contagion. It is true that the Quarantine Physician and the Board of Health have very unwisely and unfoundedly, as I think, given currency to such a belief, by promulgating the opinion that the specific cause or virus has been blown from vessels on to the land; but this opinion can hardly be sustained. Who has ever before heard of such a phenomenon, or witnessed such a fact?

What is to prevent yellow fever from originating on Staten Island, or any where else, if the causes which occasion it in Galveston or Vera Cruz exist there? Are we to believe that the virus originated from some accidental combination of causes, years ago, which can never again happen? It seems to me we ought to know better than this, or that it must necessarily originate within the tropics. It may be said that the specific cause of yellow fever is too subtle or refined for our gross senses. Grant it; but then can we not know, do we not already know, the several conditions, external and internal to the body, which give those causes power? Is it not conceded, on all hands, that yellow fever cannot exist in a pure atmosphere? And is there a city in the world which cannot, by using the proper means, be made so cleanly that no yellow fever could find a foot-hold? How much more rational, then, as well as philosophical, that our civic authorities should direct their attention, not to measures of quarantine, non-intercourse, and embargoes, but to hygienic regulations by which the evil will be arrested at its fountain-head! Far easier this, than to dam the current, swollen by a thousand tributaries. At any rate, it is high time the profession, at least, should advocate the truth, and no longer lend their influence to sustain the exploded doctrines of quarantine and cordons sanitaires, knowing full well that the evil which springs from the bosom of nature, needs for its removal no other rules than those which nature herself reveals.

MEDICUS.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON. SEPTEMBER 20, 1848.

Over-Teaching in Public Schools.—Massachusetts is distinguished for her school system, and Boston, in particular, is noted as the place where this system is favorably exhibited in practice. At the earliest historical period, the inhabitants of Boston laid the foundation for the free instruction

of youth ; and from age to age, a succession of generations have both maintained and cheerfully taxed themselves to sustain and improve an institution which has given a proud character to the city. But the determination to be perpetually raising the standard of instruction, if the pride of progress is not checked, will prove an incalculable evil. Children, in all the public schools in Boston, are over-worked. They are pressed beyond their strength in the Primary, in the Grammar, the High and Latin Schools. Their active little heads, when the instructress first takes them in hand, are exercised beyond a natural and healthy measure. If but half the time strictly appropriated to mental exercises, were devoted to the legitimate objects of such schools, and small boys and girls were allowed to amuse themselves, with certain restrictions, according to their own individual notions of enjoyment, the remainder of each day, in rooms expressly set apart for gymnastic exercises, they would have firmer constitutions, a stronger organization of body, and a capacity for improvement altogether superior to the artificial developments which the modern, hot-house, forcing methods produce. It is believed to be true that all the mighty men of intellect in this country—and those females, too, who rule in society through the influence of their moral powers, distinguished literary attainments, or versatile genius—were slow in coming to maturity. It is true of mind (as the homely proverb expresses the sentiment) as of fruit—*soon ripe, soon rotten*. In other words, a premature exercise of the cerebral apparatus weakens the vital machinery, and, in consequence, precocious children rarely have a prominent position as men.

But one of the principal objections to the school system pursued in Boston, is the amount of labor required of the scholars. A lad of six years may become as much fatigued in mastering a spelling lesson for future recitation, or committing to memory some of the propositions of a juvenile arithmetic, as a profound mathematician over the labyrinthian calculations of La Place. The studies are both too complex and too protracted. A little at a time, and that of the simplest elements, would obviate the objectionable features of this popular yet ruinous scheme.

Our schools are said to be constantly improving ; by which is meant, that the children accomplish more, and master a wider circle of studies. Addition is sometimes far from being improvement ; and it is morally certain, a gain in this respect is a melancholy loss. All young animals require alternate sleep and muscular activity. Without both, in proper proportions, they become languid and feeble, and lose all boldness, energy and decision. Physical training is vastly more essential to the future condition of a child, than the cultivation of its mind.

Children are likewise sent to school at too early an age, and are kept in the houses too long each day. "All work and no play," is universally acknowledged to be injurious ; whilst all play and no labor is destructive to all moral progression. A judicious medium in our primary schools is the great desideratum. Nothing would be lost of the preciousness of life, by following out the very teachings of nature herself. Her voice is always ringing in our ears, but we heed it not, so much superior is theory considered to the established laws of Creative Wisdom.

The same observations apply with equal force to the Grammar, but in a more eminent degree to the Latin School in Boston, the nursery of the university, in which many a bright little fellow is broken down by being over-wrought. If ninety out of a hundred worry through the ordeal, and

matriculate at college, many of them have been permanently injured by their preparatory studies—the effects of which are borne to the last day of existence; whilst consumption, dyspepsia, and many minor ills, are chargeable to these excessive studies, at a period when the pupil had not the muscle or the nerve to bear them with impunity.

Private schools invariably maintain a better standard of health than public; and without half the driving and severity of discipline, have fewer infractions of the regulations, and a happier and more contented set of faces. The instructors, as a body, are more cordially loved, and although the teaching process is of longer continuance, all the advantages to be realized from a classical education are more fully enjoyed in after life.

A reform in the public schools in Boston, would consist in a relaxation from a perpetual exercise of the brain, which was designed to be used, but not abused.

Mr. George Combe, the Scotch philosopher, at a public lecture in the Swedenborgian Chapel, in this city, some years since, declared, unhesitatingly, that the whole course of female education here was radically bad. Girlhood, in Boston, instead of being an epoch of freedom, is made up of an uninterrupted series of lessons, either from books or the piano. Misses and young ladies, therefore, are pale, feeble, slender, sickly creatures, positively cheated out of the birth-right of good health, the choicest of all temporal blessings. They are unfitted, by a perverse plan of education, for the demands of a variable climate and the incidents and circumstances of the social relations. They are all mind, without a body to sustain it. The sweeping mortality of the fairest flowers in this unnaturally cultivated garden of intellect, throughout New England, is due to this mistaken and unfortunate plan of education. Physicians are called upon to deprecate and protest against a system so ruinous to health, happiness and usefulness.

Since writing the above, we find the subject has engaged the attention of some of the members of the profession in Philadelphia, and that measures are likely to be adopted in that city which will at least draw public attention also to the evils alluded to. At a late meeting of the Philadelphia College of Physicians,

“Dr. Moore remarked, that for some time past he had been convinced of the injurious effects upon the health of young children, resulting from the system of school discipline pursued in many of the public and private seminaries of this city. He alluded, more especially, to the holding of but one session a day. By this arrangement the children were subjected to a confinement of from four to five hours, with little or no intermission, often in small, over-heated and badly ventilated apartments. In children who are thus deprived of an adequate amount of out-door exercise, while their minds are taxed much beyond their powers, he was well convinced, from much reflection and considerable personal observation, a train of morbid symptoms are frequently induced, which are, in many cases, of considerable severity, and having a tendency to impair the future comfort and usefulness of the little sufferers. Undue confinement and too protracted application of the mental powers in childhood, would invariably, he was convinced, if it did not produce positive disease and suffering, impair the health and vigor of the system, and render it more liable to the influence of those morbid influences to which it should be accidentally subjected.

“Dr. Moore did not know whether the opinion of the Fellows corresponded with his own upon this subject, nor had he made up his mind as to

what action would be proper on the part of the College, in order to direct the attention of parents and teachers to the evil alluded to, with a view to its abatement.

"Several of the Fellows presented their views upon the subject, which, in the main, corresponded with those of Dr. Moore; when, on motion, it was

"*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the influence exerted upon the health of children by the present system of discipline pursued in the schools of this city, and report in relation thereto at an early meeting of the College.

"The following were appointed the committee:—Drs. J. W. Moore, I. Parrish, S. Jackson, Henry Bond, and J. D. Griscom."

Epidemic Cholera.—A published report on this subject, by C. B. Coventry, (M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Medical Jurisprudence in the Geneva Medical College, and of the Buffalo University, has been overlooked some weeks. It appears that the author recently visited Europe, under instructions, "for the purpose of investigating the causes, and ascertaining, as far as possible, the best mode of prevention and treatment, of the Asiatic cholera." Those who have the pleasure of Dr. Coventry's acquaintance, or the least knowledge of his character for thoroughness; may be assured that his reputation is maintained in these researches. We trust that practitioners will avail themselves of this straightforward, faithful report on the great plague of modern times.

Analytical Compendium.—Mr. Mussey, a well-known publisher in Boston, has promptly sent in a thick, matter-of-fact book, which is a compendium of the various branches of medical science for the use of students. Now medical students, poor fellows, had an elephantine library already prepared for them, in the form of pocket remembrancers, vade mecum, guides, &c. &c.; yet we like this better than all of them, simply because it has the advantage of compactness—a consideration which those, who, like ourselves, in the beginning, could afford to buy but few books, and which it was therefore essential should be useful ones. In the one under consideration, there are seven complete works, viz., a treatise on anatomy, physiology, surgery, obstetrics, materia medica and therapeutics, chemistry and practice of medicine, comprising 912 pages, and illustrated by 333 drawings and xylographic cuts, making a very desirable treasure of scientific knowledge, also, for any one to possess who is so fortunate as not to study physic. John Neill, M.D., and Francis G. Smith, M.D., of Philadelphia, are the authors. Their industry is apparent in this excellent aggregation of several separate publications into one single volume. Their art of compression is worth knowing, especially in studies legitimately belonging to practical medicine. Lea & Blanchard, Philadelphia, are the publishers.

Ohio Medical and Surgical Journal.—At Columbus, Ohio, a new periodical has been commenced, under the title of the "Ohio Medical and Surgical Journal," to appear every other month, under the editorial supervision of John Butterfield, M.D., Professor of the Practice of Medicine in

the Starling Medical College. The amount of influence that the institution, with which the editor is associated, can exert in favor of the enterprise, will probably secure a profitable circulation. There is a large and rich field which may be culled of its choice flowers for the pages of the new Journal.

From the observations of Dr. Butterfield, it is obvious that the scheme was no sooner conceived than executed, in the presentation of a specimen number. Some months are required to collect matter, and to arrange the materials which are to give character and stability to the undertaking, so that the first number of a contemplated series never so completely satisfies those in whose hands it falls, as the numbers that follow. We are gratified with the prospects that called it into being, and beg to assure Dr. Butterfield of our cordial good will—hoping that he may realize all the advantages belonging to the station, while he instructs and advances others in the interests and responsibilities of the medical profession, and at the same time chronicles the transactions of our day, for the study, comment and edification of generations that will come after us.—Dr. B. has been guilty of a slight oversight in this number, in copying a valuable article from our Journal without giving us credit.

Nature and Treatment of Venereal Diseases.—A heavy, beautifully-executed quarto, of 348 pages, has been published by Messrs. Burgess, Stringer & Co., New York, entitled—"A Complete Practical Work on the Nature and Treatment of Venereal Diseases, and other affections of the genito-urinary organs of the male and female, illustrated by a great number of beautifully-colored plates, and many finely-executed delineations on wood. By Horace Bostwick, M.D., author of a Treatise on the Nature and Treatment of Seminal Diseases, &c."

It is illustrated by extraordinary specimens of colored lithography, equaling copper engravings in the delicacy of their finish. It is a striking evidence of the indomitable perseverance of a man who seems to have been frowned upon, but who possesses an unconquerable energy that will enable him to leave his foot prints in society, so that he will be spoken of when the memorials of him are only to be found in the libraries of those who know not that he was both censured and envied while living. One universal expression of disapprobation is manifested by the profession in this country, towards those who give themselves notoriety by advertisements in the public papers. Yet if some, who have eventually become industrious and useful members of the profession, had not resorted to that method, the vulgar public, their first patrons, would never have known them. The bold applicant for bread braves the sneers of more fortunate aspirants, absolute necessity driving him to introduce himself to the world sooner than all the refined people in it think necessary. But some of these occasionally triumph, and compel even foes, as an act of justice, to acknowledge their industry and talents. Had this splendid treatise derived its being from some other source, it would have received more literary notice and applause than may now be awarded to it. Independently of all prejudices or extraneous impressions, we do not hesitate to speak out the admiration the first examination has excited. We shall hereafter proceed to analyze this costly publication, and endeavor to show both its merits and faults.

Medicine and Theology.—The following remarks are copied into the Protestant Churchman, of New York, from the "Calendar," another religious paper, and its sentiments endorsed by the editor of the former periodical. We are glad to learn, from such respectable sources, that right views of this matter are entertained by a portion of the clergy, and we trust it will yet be found that this portion is not a small one. After copying Dr. Platt's resolutions at the meeting of the Connecticut Medical Society, as published in this Journal, the editor remarks:—

"The above has been treated very superciliously by a portion of the press. We take a different view of the matter. We are witnesses of the self-denying labors of the medical profession among the poor, and of their delicate and generous treatment of the reverend clergy. We 'honor a physician,' and rejoice to bear our testimony to the noble charities of this class of our fellow citizens. If any of the clergy deserve the rebuke which seems to be thus administered, we are very sorry. Right grievous should we feel it, if a practitioner of medicine should interfere with our prescriptions as spiritual physicians, and we gladly concede in turn the immunities which we claim. If any of our brethren claim the privilege of acting otherwise, we certainly agree with Dr. Platt that they should have at least the privilege of paying in full."

Dysentery.—TO THE EDITOR. Sir,—I have recently used the following mixture in cases of *dysentery*, with more satisfaction and with better success than anything else I ever used:—R. Mist. camph., f3 viij.; acid nitric, f3j.; tr. opii, f3ij. M.

As soon as I am called, whether the patient has unnatural heat or not, if an adult, I commence with 3 ss. of this mixture every three hours, and confine the patient to rice water for drink and nourishment. I sometimes add more laudanum, where the pain and tenesmus are severe. I diminish the frequency of the dose, as the evacuations diminish. I frequently use no other remedy. This preparation is a modification of Hope's mixture.

No. 100 Salem st., Boston, Sept., 1848.

EPHRAIM BUCK.

Cholera in Russia.—The St. Petersburg papers state that on the 4th of August there were 708 cholera patients in that city. On the 5th, 33 fresh cases, 51 cures and 17 deaths; 613 patients remaining on hand on the same day. There were 29 fresh cases, 64 cures and 12 deaths on the morning of the 6th, and 624 patients on hand.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—A letter from Dr. Wheaton, of Providence, to a medical gentleman of this city, and Dr. Brown's remarks on cholera morbus, have been received.

MARRIED,—In Haverhill, N. H., F. B. Brewer, M.D., to Miss Susan N. Rood.

DIED,—At East Brooklyn, N. Y., Dr. Wm. Cahoon, of Lyndon, Vt.—At Danbury, Conn., Daniel Comstock, M.D., 81.—At Stockholm, the illustrious chemist, Berzelius, 69.

Report of Deaths in Boston—for the week ending Sept. 16, 89—Males, 43—females, 46.—Of consumption, 18—disease of the bowels, 9—dysentery, 24—typhus fever, 5—diarrhoea, 5—lung fever, 1—scarlet fever, 5—brain fever, 1—cholera infantum, 4—disease of the brain, 1—debility, 1—old age, 2—intemperance, 1—measles, 1—pleurisy, 1—infantile, 3—accidental, 1—dropsy on the brain, 1—disease of the kidneys, 1—convulsions, 2—disease of the liver, 1—teething, 1.

Under 5 years, 41—between 5 and 20 years, 3—between 20 and 40 years, 23—between 40 and 60 years, 10—over 60 years, 7.

The Success of Health Insurance.—The following remarks from the Traveller newspaper, of this city, relate to a subject that has been several times alluded to in this Journal, and which is assuming a high degree of importance in the community.

"When the subject of Health Insurance was first broached, many regarded it as impracticable, because of the many *deceptions* that would be put upon the companies. It was natural to believe that among the policy-holders there would be quite a number who would be willing to '*sham Abram*.' There are some persons in every community who much prefer to abstain from work, provided they can have an insurance company, or Odd Fellows' lodge, pay them six or eight dollars a week for *seeming* sick. In order to guard against these frauds, the Massachusetts Health Insurance Company, of this city, makes it a condition in the contract, or policy, that 'all claims for benefits shall be substantiated by a certificate (under oath, or affirmation, if required) from the medical attendant of the insured, stating the disease or disability under which the insured has suffered, and the commencement and duration of the same, with all the facts in the case necessary to determine whether the claim of the insured is strictly in accordance with the meaning, terms, conditions, &c., of the policy and application of the insured.' This, certainly, is a very prudent and proper arrangement; and without it the impositions upon the Company must be numerous. It implies that the Company will insure those only who *will* employ proper medical attendance throughout the term for which they expect to draw money from the institution. This is the bargain with the insured, in black and white, at the outset, and it completely foils those who would obtain pay from the Company for sham sickness or only partial disability. Occasionally the complaint of some one who has been thus foiled, reaches us, but that the rule operates well is indicated by the fact that this Company has not objected to more than three claims out of all which has ever been made upon them. During the past ten or twelve months, they have paid out more than \$8,000 to sick members. In the month of August last, alone, they paid out about sixteen hundred dollars to 120 policy-holders. It is evidently for the interest of the Company to pursue a just course, and that it has always done so, is proved by the extent and prosperity of its business."

The Cholera.—The English government have determined to take early precautions to prevent the cholera spreading, in the event of any cases occurring in ships afloat, having ordered the "*Benbow*" and "*Devonshire*," ships of the line, to be immediately prepared as hospital ships, to receive cholera patients; and the "*Iphigenia*," Marine Society's ship, is ordered from Greenwich, and the boys to be transferred to the "*Venus*," moored off Charlton Pier, previous to that ship being fitted up as a cholera ship also. —The Parisians have had a great hoax played upon them. Some silly person circulated that the cholera had broken out in London, and that there were a thousand cases every day. The French paper, *L'Union Médicale*, very justly contradicts this wicked invention. *L'Avenir National*, of the 21st Aug., states, however, that on the 9th, seventeen cases of Asiatic cholera occurred in Berlin; it had also appeared at Charlottenberg and Stettin; so that it is actually progressing towards this country.—*London Lancet*.